

PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR OF THE BASE END STATION AT CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT

This is a collection of photos that show the Base End Station and Battery Commander's bunker that is located north of the Old Point Loma Lighthouse. These photos were taken during the first quarter of 2013, after slightly more than a year of restoration.



This is the entry to the bunker, looking north with Battery Ashburn visible in the background at the top of the hill. This facility served two purposes; first it was the office of the commanding officer of Battery Ashburn, the second was to generate the targeting data needed to aim the 16 inch guns of this battery.



Here is entry to the bunker looking south, with the whale watching station visible in the background, just above the jeep's windshield. The staircase installed in this bunker is a feature unique to this building, the rest of the bunkers in the park are accessed through a ceiling hatch and ladder. The jeep is owned by the person seen working on it here, and is marked as belonging to the Harbor Defenses of San Diego.



This is inside the bunker, looking southeast at the door at the base of the stairs seen in the last photo. The jacket and shirt is resting on the lock-box secured phone used by the battery commander to issue the order to actually fire the guns of Battery Ashburn. The other phones are used to communicate with the lower bunker and elsewhere. The airplane identification chart is a new reproduction created by one of the bunker volunteers, based on a real World War Two poster.



Turning slightly to the right from the previous photo, this shows the desk used by the battery commander and his assistant. This was where the administrative work was done. The items seen here were moved to the north wall when the azimuth scope pedestal (seen on the next page) was installed.



This is the park's M1910 azimuth scope mounted on its newly installed pedestal. This pedestal was recovered from another bunker in the park. The scope is rated at 15 power, which is twice the magnifying power of a normal pair of binoculars.



Turning slightly to the right again, this is the northwest wall before the azimuth scope's installation. This shows the wooden tripod that was initially used to demonstrate the function of the azimuth scope. The azimuth scope and the telephone were the most important instruments installed in the bunker. The ship identification chart is another reproduction done by a volunteer.



Turning right once again, looking at the northeast corner, shows the ladder leading down to the bunkroom, and the post war electrical panels. Since AC power is no longer available inside the bunker, the wiring has been converted to use 12 volt DC current supplied by a car battery to power the light bulb and telephones.



The view down the ladder to the bunkroom. Just visible at floor level is the missing rung, there are two stumps of iron rod sticking out of the wall, where the rung used to be. A hatch can be placed over this opening to close it off. The gate and the railing are both reproduced, but the design is based on the original drawings of the bunker. The railings are installed using the original holes in the concrete where the original woodwork was placed.



Still looking northeast, but now at the base of the ladder, this is the bunkroom. The light seen here is the only electric light installed in the bunker. The beds are of World War Two vintage, but should be bunk beds, not single beds. The black paint on the wall and along the floor was to hide the scuffmarks of the soldier's boots when they walked around and used the ladder.



This photo is looking towards the southeast. Not very visible in this shot are slight marks on the wall which suggest that the beds installed in this room were bolted to the wall, rather than placed on the floor. If this is the case, there would be two beds attached to the wall on the left, one above the other.



Looking northwest inside the bunkroom shows the doorway leading to the lower bunker. This door was closed at night to prevent any light from the bunkroom from being visible from the view ports of the lower bunker.



Looking northeast at the top of the stairs seen in the previous picture. The side railings are original, but the gate was reproduced. The original hinges and gate latch were intact when the restoration was started, confirmed that this gate was part of the original design of the bunker.



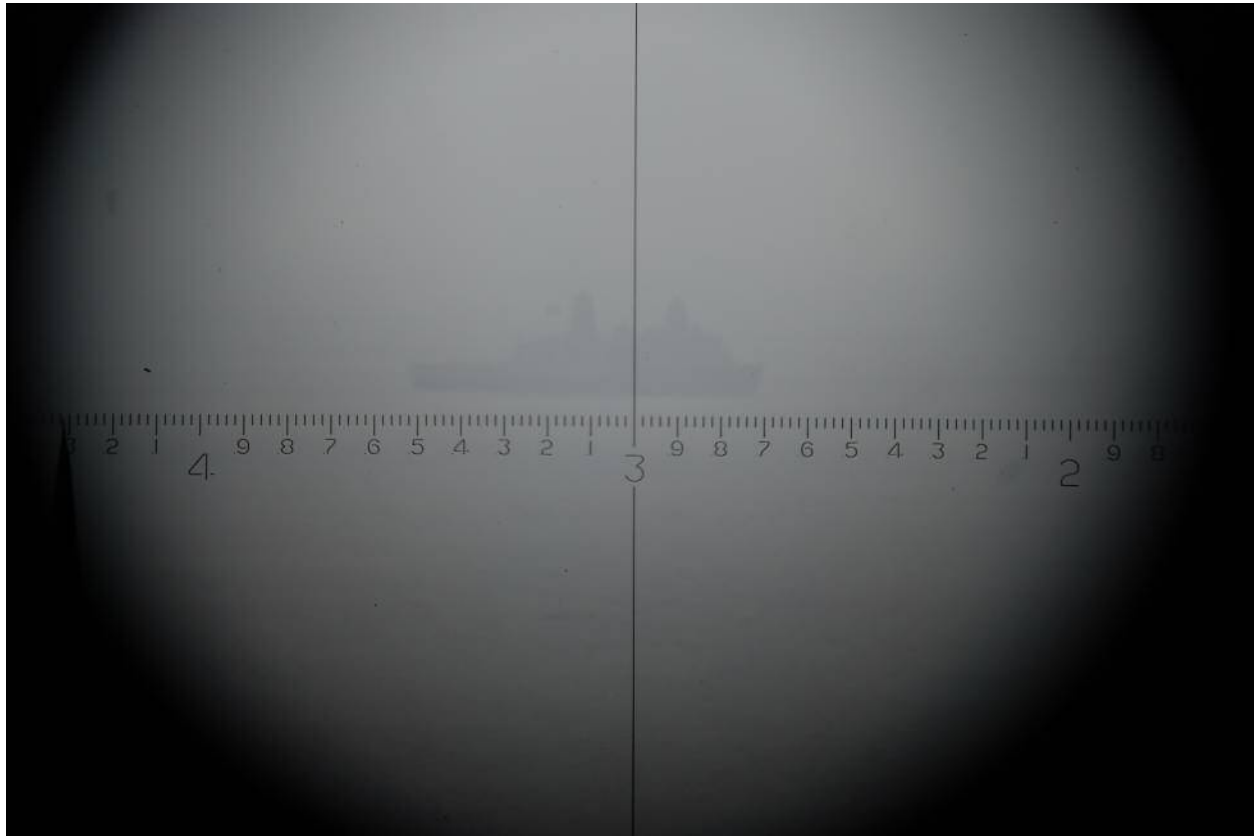
Looking southwest shows the space where two of the three optical instruments were installed on this level. Originally, there were three instruments installed on this level; two azimuth scopes and a depression finder. The lower bunker was the actual base end station, where targets were tracked and the data needed for triangulation was generated.



Looking northwest in this room shows the only view port shutters that can be opened, the rest are rusted, or welded, closed. The azimuth scope shown here is located very near where an original pedestal was installed. This scope is a newer model than the scope shown earlier, but it performs the same function. Restoration is ongoing for the lower bunker, and is less complete than the upper level.



This is the floor of the lower bunker, showing the scars where the original telescopes were mounted. The smaller marks on the left and right were where azimuth scope pedestals were mounted the same as seen earlier. The larger scar in the center was where a depression finder was mounted. The mount was a hexagon of cement about 18 inches high. The black band on the wall at floor level was to hide scuff marks made by soldier's boots.



An example of why the Army supplied posters that showed ship silhouettes instead of details. This was a Navy amphibious assault ship in maneuvers off of Point Loma, as seen through the 15 power azimuth scope that now resides on the permanent pedestal. This was how ships were spotted and bearings taken. In this case, the ship was about 8 miles away.